

COMMUNICATION

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *American Historical Review*:

Sir:

WHEN Professor John Bassett Moore's review of my *President's Control of Foreign Relations* appeared in the July issue of the *Review* I had not time to give it attention. It is not, however, I trust, too late to correct through your pages some of the misleading impressions it seems likely to leave with the reader of it.

(1) Professor Moore thinks that the Senate report dealing with President Cleveland's appointment of Commissioner Blount was somewhat evasive and inconclusive as a vindication.

This is a matter of construction. It seems entirely reasonable to hold that the significance of this report consists precisely in its assimilating the case of Blount, notwithstanding the large powers conferred upon him, with that of previous "personal agents", and especially since a minority of the committee dissented on the point which Professor Moore says was evaded.

(2) On page 83 of my volume I write: "The downfall of Huerta was due directly to President Wilson's failure to recognize him as the *de facto* government of Mexico." Professor Moore comments: "Huerta did not claim recognition as 'the *de facto* government of Mexico', but as constitutional president."

Either this criticism is irrelevant or it implies that the administration did recognize Huerta as the *de facto* government of Mexico. In the latter connection President Wilson's words, in his address of December 2, 1913, to Congress are not open to misconstruction:

"There can be no certain prospect of peace in America until General Huerta has surrendered his usurped authority in Mexico ... Mexico has no government", etc. Nor did the administration later alter its attitude on this question.

(3) Professor Moore takes exception to my remark that "the power of Congress to declare war" appears "in actual exercise" to have been "the power to recognize an existing state of war", a power belonging also to the President "at least in the case of invasion or insurrection". He says: "A diminution of the power of Congress or an enlargement of that of the President, is not to be inferred from verbal jockeying for diplomatic advantage in the international game."

The observation is true enough, but not pertinent to a discussion which has for its subject the *form* which congressional "declarations of war" have taken from the outset (p. 140).

(4) Professor Moore criticizes a version of the Koszta episode which I quote from an opinion of the Supreme Court as "inaccurate and misleading". I do not find that it is in the least misleading regarding the topic in connection with which it is quoted. See, moreover, Rhodes, I. 416-418.

Most of the remaining criticisms are of much the same character, involving to a great extent matters of interpretation and opinion. It is of course difficult to bring an argued refutation of such criticisms within available space or within the rules governing communications of this character.

EDWARD S. CORWIN.

HISTORICAL NEWS

Apologies are due for the late appearance of the October number. In these times promptness of publication is difficult, even though all precautions are taken. In this instance, the cause was an unaccountable delay of blue cover-paper in arriving at the printing office.

The annual list of doctoral dissertations in history in progress, which of late it has been customary to print in the January number of this journal, is, from motives of economy to the *Review*, omitted from the present issue; it will hereafter be printed in a pamphlet, by the Department of Historical Research in the Carnegie Institution of Washington, in an edition sufficient to supply all persons having any direct interest in the matter. Such persons, if they do not receive a copy before the beginning of February, may write to J. F. Jameson, 1140 Woodward Building, Washington, D. C.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Association, arranged to take place at Cleveland on December 27 and 28, has been indefinitely postponed on the advice of the health officer of that city, because of an epidemic of influenza prevalent there. The secretary has sent notice to all members. No announcement can now be made as to when this thirty-fourth annual meeting will be held.

The Winsor Prize essay, *Connecticut in Transition, 1775-1818*, by Dr. Richard J. Purcell, has been published, and distributed to subscribers. The *Annual Report* for 1917 is in galley-proof.

Now that the resort to London archives and libraries on the part of American historical students is likely to be resumed, perhaps on an increased scale, it is desirable to remind them of the existence of the London headquarters of the American Historical Association, a commodious room in the building of the Royal Historical Society at 22 Russell Square, in a locality convenient to both the Public Record Office and the British Museum. Here American students of history working in London may have opportunities of meeting, of keeping their papers in a safe place, and occasionally of obtaining guidance from the secretary of the London branch of the Association. They also receive advantages from the presence in the same building of the offices of the Royal Historical Society and of the Historical Association (of English teachers), and by the kindness of the former are given the privileges of its library.